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Attorney Docket No.: S-9

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C. 20231

On January 17, 2003  
By [Signature]  
Katie Zarzana

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Lewis SHARPS et al.

Application No.: 09/676,194

Filed: September 28, 2000

For: **METHODS OR REPAIRING  
DAMAGED INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS**

Examiner: COHEN

Art Unit: 3762

**RESPONSE**

**RECEIVED**

**JAN 30 2003**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 17, 2002, for which a response was due October 17, 2002. Applicant submits a request for 3 months extension thereby extending the time for response to January 17, 2003. Thus, this response is timely filed.